




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Powys, Mr C

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.08 pm): Around 27 years ago a young South African boy left his country with his family to come to Australia to make a new home and leave his oppressive apartheid country behind. He started school at Helensvale on the Gold Coast and moved successfully through our state school system to go on to study education at Griffith University, where he graduated as a teacher. After stints at different schools on the Gold Coast and then moving to regional Queensland, he eventually became principal of Glenella State School in North Mackay at the tender age of 33.

In early September this year, the Australian Institute of Management held its regional excellence awards in Mackay, where Mr Cliff Powys, principal of Glenella State School, was nominated for an emerging leader award—nominated he thinks by a staff member or a parent. Nominees must demonstrate strong leadership and management potential, exceptional skills in dealing with internal and external stakeholders, have a significant impact on their company or business, recognition of their personal brand and network and impact on this and on their career, and a commitment to personal development and a clear vision of the goals that they have for themselves. In the presence of noted Mackay identity and former gifted state parliamentarian, the Hon. Tim Mulherin, and amongst a hot field of budding and leading private and public sector entrepreneurs Mr Cliff Powys, principal of Glenella State School, won the regional award for excellence as an emerging leader for work in the education sector. It was no mean feat beating up-and-coming CEOs in the mining, engineering and financial services area.

There is more: just last week Mr Cliff Powys and his lovely wife, Jessica, headed to Brisbane for the state final comprising regional winners and Brisbane aspirants and, amazingly, as a complete shock to all who thought nobody from the education sector could match it with city-smart entrepreneurs, Mr Cliff Powys was the state award winner for excellence as an emerging leader and is now pitted against the nation's best in a week's time for the national final of the Australian Institute of Management Excellence Awards for an emerging leader.

This is the ultimate story of what Australia is all about with our wonderful refugees. It is also what Queensland is all about with our successful share of refugees. It is what our fantastic Queensland education system is all about right across-the-board. If you want to succeed in Queensland you can, it is up to you and you make it your choice. Mr Cliff Powys, it is a long way from Johannesburg to the National Australian Institute of Management Excellence Awards, but I salute you, I honour you and I am so very, very proud to call you my son-in-law. Mr Cliff, I wish you the very best in your endeavours in the years ahead.